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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,118	12/06/2001	Hyuk-Jun Nam	0136/0K089US	8450

7590 11/17/2004

Darby & Darby
805 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

EXAMINER

PARKIN, JEFFREY S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1648

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/009,118	NAM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.	1648

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3, 7, 8, 12-19, 21 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3, 7, 8, 12-19, 21, and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Response to Amendment***Status of the Claims***

Acknowledgement is hereby made of receipt and entry of the amendment filed 29 June, 2004, wherein claims 4-6, 9-11, and 20 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 12-17, and 19 amended, and new claims 21 and 22 submitted. Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 12-19, 21, and 22 are currently under examination.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and potential 35

U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 12-19, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacharach and Goff (1998) in view of Strair et al. (1993). As previously set forth, Bacharach and colleague disclose an assay for studying binding interactions between the HIV-1 NC protein and HIV-1 RNA encapsidation signal (HIV ψ). The NC protein, target RNA, and indicator gene (β -gal) were expressed from separate plasmids. Strair and associates provide a simple two-plasmid system for identifying antivirals, as well as, drug-resistant variants. Therefore, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the screening assay of Bacharach and Goff (1998) to include both the packaging signal and reporter gene on the same plasmid. This would provide a facile means for identifying antivirals. It should be noted that numerous HIV-1 isolates have been sequenced. Accordingly, the selection of any given packaging sequence is simply a matter of routine experimentation. Moreover, the identification of suitable expression vectors is also a matter of routine expression.

Response to Arguments

Applicants traverse and submit that the prior art fails to render the claimed invention *prima facie* obvious. It was argued that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a simpler two-plasmid approach. These arguments are not deemed to be persuasive. Bacharach and Goff (1998) clearly teach that the HIV-1 NC protein binds to the ψ sequence. Contrary to applicants' assertion, Strair et al. (1993) clearly provide a simple two-plasmid indicator system to identify virus-infected cells. A defective HIV-LacZ plasmid was cotransfected with a plasmid encoding the HIV proteins necessary for packaging. Accordingly, it would have been *prima facie* obvious

to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the screening assay of Bacharach and Goff (1998) to include both the packaging signal and reporter gene on the same plasmid. This would provide a facile means for identifying antivirals.

Finality of Office Action

Applicants' amendment necessitated any and all new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). **A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.**

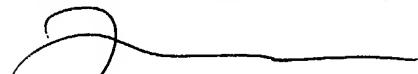
Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0908. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 10:30 AM to 9:00 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James C. Housel, can be reached at (571) 272-0902. Direct general status inquiries to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist at (571) 272-1600. Formal communications may be submitted through the official facsimile number which is (703) 872-9306. Hand-carried formal communications should be directed toward the customer window located in Crystal Plaza Two, 2011 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA. Applicants are directed toward the O.G. Notice for further guidance. 1280 O.G. 681. Informal communications

may be submitted to the Examiner's RightFAX account at (571) 273-0908.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)..

Respectfully,



Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1648

12 November, 2004